

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 02823 01 OF 02 130904Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01
TRSE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
EB-08 /084 W

-----118472 130908Z /20/46

O 121330Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1476
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION USNATO
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
UNCINCEUR
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 2823

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR
SUBJ: TURKISH REACTION TO POSTPONEMENT OF MFA SECGENS' TALKS

REF: (A) ATHENS 2972, (B) ATHENS 2987

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL:

1. SUMMARY: MAF OFFICIAL SAYS THAT TURKS WERE SURPRISED AT
GREEK POSTPONEMENT OF SECGENS' MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 14-16,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 02823 01 OF 02 130904Z

THAT GOG WILL BE ASKED FOR EXPLANATION TODAY, AND THAT ALTHOUGH
GREEK DECISION MAY HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECT, HE EXPECTS OTHER
TALKS TO TAKE PLACE. PRESS REPORTS GREEK DECISION CAME AS
SURPRISE AND APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT GREEKS ARE NOT REALLY
SERIOUS ABOUT SEEKING SOLUTION TO GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS.
END SUMMARY

2. MFA OFFICIAL DEALING WITH AEGEAN AFFAIRS TOLD EMBOFF THAT "AFTER THE SPRING IN MONTREUX," THE MFA WAS SURPRISED BY THE GREEK REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF APRIL 14-16 TALKS AND SO FAR DID NOT KNOW MAIN REASON FOR IT, "ALTHOUGH IT COULD BE ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS, AS THEY SAID." MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE GOT WILL OFFICIALLY TELL THE GOG TODAY (APRIL 12) THAT IT IS "SURPRISED AND SORRY" ABOUT THE GREEK DECISION AND WILL ASK FOR AN EXPLANATION. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE ASSUMED THE POSTPONE-MENT WILL IMPEDE THE PROCESS OF GREEK-TURKISH RAPPROCHEMENT, HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN TASKED WITH PREPARING FOR A "VERY HIGH-LEVEL BRIEFING" TWO WEEKS HENCE, FROM WHICH HE GATHERED THAT A "VERY HIGH-LEVEL MEETING" IS BEING PLANNED. END CONFIDENTIAL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

3. PRIMIN ECEVIT, IN AN IMPROMPTU MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS AT NOON APRIL 12, SAID IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN POSTPONED AT GREEK REQUEST AND THAT HE HOPED THE POSTPONEMENT WOULD NOT BE FOR LONG. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, THE MFA ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT THE GREEK REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT HAD CREATED "DISAPPOINTMENT" IN THE GOT. THE STATEMENT POINTED OUT THAT NO DEVELOPMENT JUSTIFYING THE POSTPONEMENT HAD OCCURRED IN TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD REQUESTED "ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS" THAT MEETING BE DEFERRED, THE STATEMENT SAID, AND THE MFA HOPED THAT A NEW DATE CAN BE SET IN A REASONABLE TIME. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANKARA 02823 01 OF 02 130904Z

4. APRIL 12 TURKISH PRESS CARRIED TALKS' POSTPONEMENT AS FRONT-PAGE BUT SECONDARY NEWS. MOST HEADLINES WERE NEUTRAL, ALTHOUGH LEFTIST BARIS AND CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN HEADLINED THAT ATHENS POSTPONED THE TALKS "UNILATERALLY." SMALLER PAPERS WITH EARLIER PUBLICATION DEADLINES EMPHASIZED THAT DESPITE POSTPONEMENT REPORTS FROM ATHENS, MFA SPOKESMAN DENIED THAT ATHENS HAD MADE SUCH A REQUEST AND INSISTED THAT PREPARATIONS WERE STILL GOING FORWARD FOR THE APRIL 14 MEETINGS. SEVERAL PAPERS MENTIONED REPORTS FROM ATHENS THAT THE POSTPONEMENT WAS DUE TO OPPOSITION PRESSURE AMID THE UPROAR OVER THE US DECISION TO LIFT THE ARMS EMBARGO. LEFTIST, PRO-GOVERNMENT CUMHURIYET REPORTED THAT THE GOT WAS SURPRISED BY THE GREEK DECISION AND THAT THEREFORE ATHENS WAS ASKED WHEN THE GOG EXPECTED THE ATMOSPHERE TO BE SUITABLE AND IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT "A POSTPONEMENT WON'T SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS."

5. LEFTIST, PRO-GOVERNMENT BARIS QUOTED AN MFA OFFICIAL AS SAYING, "GREECE DOES NOT WANT TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE IN FAVOR OF TURKEY IN WORLD PUBLIC OPINION; CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS AVOIDING DETAILS AND DEFINITE AGENDAS IN TALKS. IT WAS LIKE THIS BEFORE MONTREUX AND DURING THE SUMMIT. NOW THE PLACE

AND DATE HAVE CHANGED BUT THEY'RE STILL AVOIDING TALKS BECAUSE OF WORRIES ABOUT AGENDAS." "THE MFA OFFICIAL WAS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE GREEK ACTION WAS RELATED TO INTERNAL POLITICS; THE OPPOSITION HAD FOUND PRIMIN CARAMANLIS'S REACTION TO THE US EMBARGO DECISIONS INSUFFICIENT AND HAD MOUNTED A CAMPAIGN OF RECRIMINATION. "IN THIS ATMOSPHERE THE GREEK GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE FROM THE ANGLE OF INTERNAL POLITICS TO SIT DOWN AGAIN WITH THE TURKS AND THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SHOW THAT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WILL HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON TURKISH-GREEK RELATIONS."

6. ACCORDING TO MODERATE LEFTIST, PRO-GOVERNMENT MILLIYET, ANKARA OFFICIALS STATED THAT "THERE IS NO CONCRETE REASON FOR THE POSTPONEMENT." "POLITICAL CIRCLES IN ANKARA" WERE QUOTED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ANKARA 02823 01 OF 02 130904Z

AS NOTING THAT, DESPITE THE STRONG GREEK REACTION AGAINST THE US DECISIONS, THE GOT DID NOT THINK OF USING THEM AS A PRETEXT FOR POSTPONING TALKS WITH THE GREEKS; SAME CIRCLES SUGGESTED THAT GOG MIGHT WANT TO GO BACK ON THE DECISIONS REACHED IN MONTREUX OR ENDLESSLY PUT OFF THEIR IMPLEMENTATION. MILLIYET FURTHER QUUOTED THESE CIRCLES AS SAYING THAT ATHENS' TACTICS ARE "COMPLETELY THE OPPOSITE OF THE ATMOSPHERE OF

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 02823 02 OF 02 121427Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01
TRSE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
EB-08 /084 W

-----099268 121438Z /46

O 121330Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1477

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION USNATO
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
UNCINCEUR
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ANKARA 2823

HARMONY AND AGREEMENT REACHED AT MONTREUX; THEY GIVE THE
IMPRESSION THAT THE GREEKS DO NOT SINCERELY WANT TO FIND A
SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS."

7. FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN MILLIYET BY ABDI IPEKCI COMMENTS THAT
"ATATURK AND VENIZELOS WERE ABOVE TO END THE LONG-STANDING
ENMITY BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE AND ESTABLISH PEACE, BECAUSE OF
THEIR POSITIONS AS NATIONAL HEROES...TODAY ECEVIT AND KARAMANLIS
ARE NOT IN THE SAME POSITION; BOTH HAVE STRONG OPPOSITIONS IN
THEIR COUNTRIES. BUT AT THE SAME TIME IF PEACE IS TO BE
ESTABLISHED, IT MAY BE PRESUMED THAT ECEVIT AND KARAMANLIS
WILL BE THE BEST ONES TO ACHIEVE THIS, FOR IF THEY FAIL, IT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 02823 02 OF 02 121427Z

IS UNLIKELY THAT THEIR OPPOSITIONS WILL SUCCEED...THE MONTREUX
MEETING WAS THE FIRST HOPE OF PUTTING TO GOOD USE THIS
OPPORTUNITY...BUT NOW WITH THE REACTION SHOWN TOWARDS THE
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT'S MOVE TO LIFT THE EMBARGO, THIS HOPE IS
DYING OUT....IN TURKEY AS MUCH AS IN GREECE THERE ARE THOSE
WHO DISAPPROVE OF PEACEFUL STEPS AND INCITE ENMITY BETWEEN
THE TWO NATIONS. EVERYONE KNOWS THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL
IMMEDIATELY EXPLOIT ANY CONCESSIONS GRANTED IN CYPRUS...(BUT)
AFTER THE MONTREUX MEETING, BOTH THE PRESS AND THE OPPOSITION
REFRAINED FROM MAKING ANY PROVOCATION AGAINST GREECE.
NEVERTHELESS, THE ANTI-TURKISH CAMPAIGN IN GREECE HAS BECOME
VIOLENT, PARTICULARLY AFTER LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO WAS
ANNOUNCED, AND GREECE HAS TAKEN ACTION AGAINST TURKEY IN
OFFICIAL NOTES CONCERNING THE EMBARGO, WHICH IS A MATTER
BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES. THE GREEK ANNOUNCEMENT
THAT THEY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE, WHEN TURKEY WAS PREPARING FOR
THE APRIL 14 MEETING IN SPITE OF ALL THIS, WILL WEAKEN HOPES
PLACED IN THE RESPONSIBILITY, SERIOUSNESS AND COURAGE OF
KARAMANLIS."
SPIERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ANKARA02823
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780169-0656, D780157-0551
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780463/aaaacbrq.tel
Line Count: 218
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b2083ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ATHENS 2972, 78 ATHENS 2987
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2988465
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH REACTION TO POSTPONEMENT OF MFA SECGENS' TALKS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b2083ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014